

Technological change and skill development in the Arab Gulf countries

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Technological Change and Skill Development in the Arab Gulf Countries

van Samia Satti Osman Mohamed-Nour

1. The complementary relationships between technological progress and human capital represent an important source of endogenous growth.
2. Insufficient facilities of the educational system in a country can lead to low skill levels, poor provision of training, skills mismatch, low transfer of knowledge, inadequate R&D efforts and poor technological capability.
3. The incidence of external effects of schooling and/ or transfer of knowledge is somewhat problematic in the developing countries, probably because knowledge is perceived as rival and excludable.
4. A huge gap between the developed and developing countries appears in terms of knowledge. The shortening of this knowledge gap requires sound and systematic institutional support and facilities to improve the quality of education, stimulate R&D, a research culture, a networks system, information system, academic collaboration and incentives to protect intellectual property rights.
5. Public and private investment in health services may contribute to improve and/ or enhance the rate of economic growth, because a good health is necessary to improve the productivity of labour in the economy.
6. In the old economy the critical challenges for economic growth and development are poverty alleviation (may be notably in the developing countries), full employment and equity in income distribution and utilization of human and natural resources. In the new economy, emerging challenges are abridgment of the knowledge and information gap, building a knowledge-based economy and integration in the global economy.
7. In oil dependent economies like the Gulf instability in the oil market may cause economic slowdown and cyclical unemployment. The latter might obscure the presence of structural unemployment which occurs due to a lack of proper educational policies in response to technical progress.
8. Global consonance, commitment and collaboration to design and implement sound innovative solutions and to improve understanding of the causes and possible consequences of complex environmental hazards and long-term climatic changes - such as those related to energy use and increasing scarcity of natural resources- may contribute to foster global sustainable development objectives.
9. The Netherlands and Sudan are characterised by more peaceful, open and compromised culture and an increasing awareness about the environment and sustainable development. The big open windows with nice flowers in the Dutch houses indicate open culture with beautiful environment. The Netherlands has further advantage of a more sound, systematic and balanced development strategy.
10. "Those who usually give and forgive are those who usually gain the fruits" (My mother Alawia Mahgoub).